





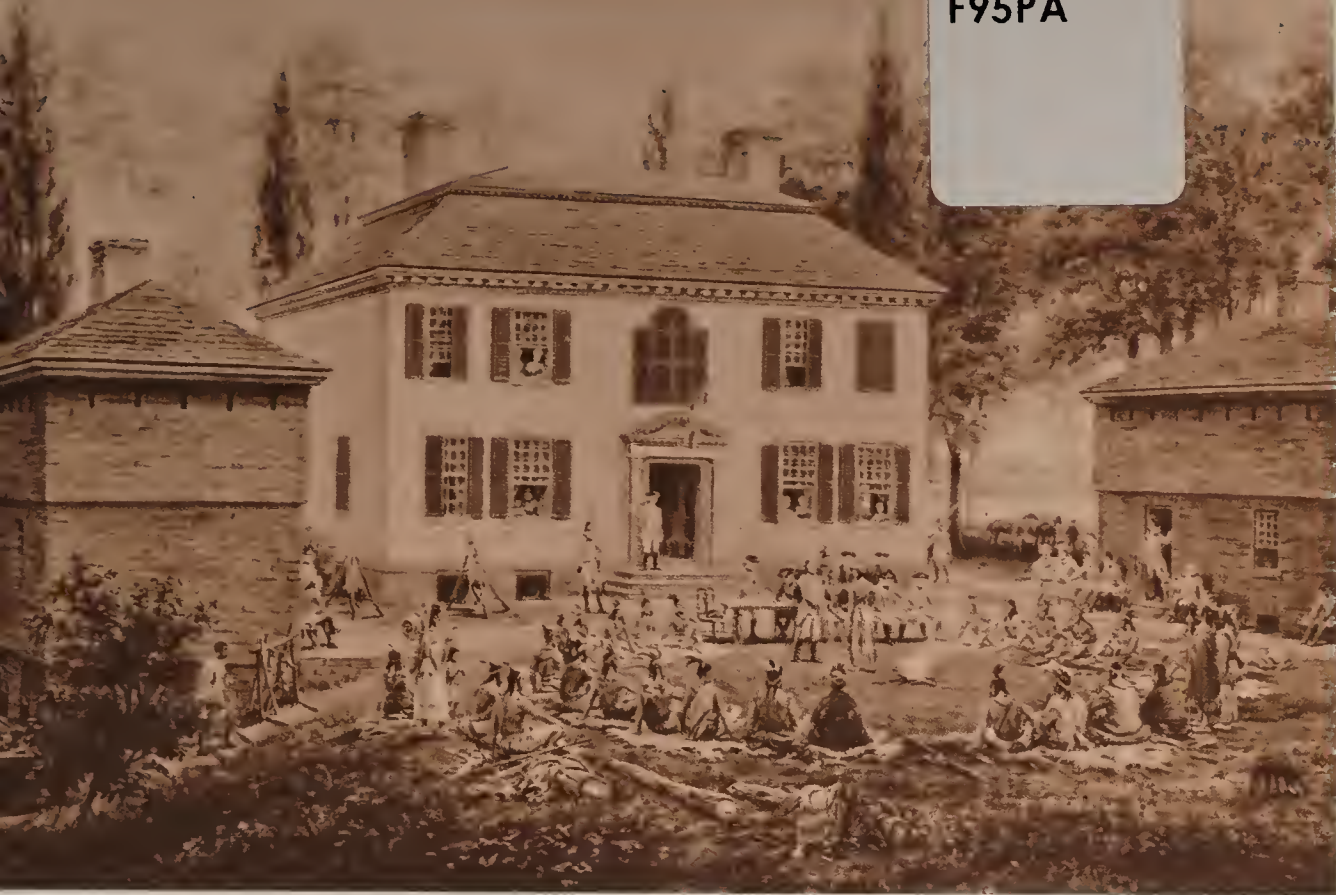


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Indian Council at Johnson Hall (As recreated by the Genre painter E. L. Henry)

HISTORICAL FULTON COUNTY NEW YORK

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Fulton County Historian



FULTON COUNTY, named after Robert Fulton, the illustrious inventor of the steamboat, was created by an act of the Legislature, April 18, 1838. It originally contained nine towns: Johnstown, Northampton, Broadalbin, Mayfield, Ephratah, Oppenheim, Perth, Stratford, and Bleecker. Caroga was added April 11, 1842, created out of Stratford, Bleecker and Johnstown. The county occupies in the state an eastern-central position. It is bounded on the north by the county of Hamilton, on the east by Saratoga, on the south by Montgomery and on the west by Herkimer. It contains 544 square miles.

Its surface is a rolling and hilly upland rising into a mountainous region in the northern part, the highest elevation being Pinnacle Mountain, 2514 feet above sea level. It is well supplied with streams, the largest the Sacandaga River which flows through its northeast corner. The soil in the southern part of the county is chiefly a gravelly and clayey loam derived from glacial drift deposits, and in favored localities

Fulton County Office Building, Johnstown



is exceedingly rich and fertile. In the northern portion, however, the surface is too rough and broken for profitable cultivation. In this latter section are many small lakes possessing those picturesque features which characterize the wilderness region of northern New York.

Not being situated on a stream suitable to be used as a means of travel, the county was not adapted for Indian habitation. Only two Indian villages have been discovered; both are Iroquois and prehistoric. One is on the high hill northeast of Ephratah village, the other about one mile northeast of Sammons ville on the east bank of the Cayadutta Creek. Many Indian relics such as arrowheads and other flint artifacts are frequently found along the streams or on the lands bordering the shores of the lakes. These are the sites of temporary camping places for fishing and hunting.

Lands claimed and occupied by the Indians began to be acquired by white people either by conquest, grant or purchase from the first landing of Europeans in America. The earliest grant, a royal grant, to include lands now in Fulton County was made November 2, 1708, and was called the Kayaderosseras Patent. From then until September 29, 1770, at least twenty-two patents were granted for land wholly or partly in this county. On November 26, 1785, a patent was granted to Samuel Stringer for lands in the town of Broadalbin under the authority of the State of New York, the first patent granted by this sovereign state.

The most important of these patents, from a historical point of view, was the Kingsborough Patent. Its location and the quality of a large part of its soil gave it distinction and its importance was greatly increased by Sir William Johnson's settlement on it at Johnstown. It was granted to Arent Stevens and nine others June 23, 1753, by the royal governor of New York after they had purchased it from the Indians October 19, 1752. It consisted of 20,000 acres in what is now the townships of Johnstown, Mayfield, and Ephratah. How long Stevens and the others held the property is not known. It soon came into Johnson's possession, so it seems probable that they were his agents and if this be true, Johnson may be regarded as the purchaser even though his name was omitted.

In the year 1762, Sir William began the building of Johnson Hall at Johnstown and moved into it in 1763. This was the beginning of the first settlement of importance in the county. Johnson was born in Ireland and came to America in 1738 to be superintendent of an estate on the south side of the Mohawk River east of the present city of Amsterdam, which had been purchased as a speculation by his uncle, Sir Peter Warren. In 1742, Johnson moved across the river to go into business for himself and built Fort Johnson in 1749, still standing. From



here he marched with Indian troops to Lake George to engage the French where he won the battle of that name, September 8, 1755. As a result of this victory, the crown made him a baronet of the hereditary class and he was henceforth known as Sir William. In addition to his title, he was given five thousand pounds and an annual salary of six hundred pounds as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in North America. At this time he was promoted to the rank of Major-General in the British regular army on the Colonial establishment. At the battle of Niagara in 1759 when General Prideaux, who was in command, was killed, Johnson succeeded him and secured a victory. This added further to his reputation as a soldier and loyal subject of King George II.

Being cramped for room and expansion in his desire to become a landed proprietor, he decided to make his future home on the Kingsborough Patent and the site of Johnstown, the center of his large estate. He induced families to come and settle on the unoccupied lands around Johnstown and at more remote spots from Johnstown. In 1773, he got six hundred Scotch Highlanders of the Catholic faith to leave their native land and settle in the new County of Tryon. In this way the county acquired its first white settlers.

The Province of New York was for the first time divided into counties in 1683 by an act of the Provincial Assembly. Ten counties were created, one of which was Albany, the land of the future County of Fulton being a part of it. Albany County included all the land above Dutchess and Ulster Counties and extended to Canada. Its other boundaries were indefinite. On March 12, 1772, Albany County was divided into three counties: Albany, Charlotte, and Tryon. The boundary of Tryon County was a straight line from Canada to along the west boundary of what is now Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, then southwest through Schoharie and Delaware Counties to the southeast corner of Broome, then up the Old Fort Stanwix line to Lake Ontario. The county seat of this new Tryon County (named for William Tryon, royal governor at that time) was placed at Johnstown.

Johnson Hall, Johnstown



Fulton County Court House, Johnstown



Up to this time, Johnstown was a hamlet, consisting of Johnson Hall, a small school, 1771, a stone church, 1766, a few houses, probably not over a dozen in all and two or three streets. With the establishment of the county seat of Tryon County at Johnstown, Sir William began the erection of buildings necessary for the administration of the county government, the court house and jail. New streets were laid out and Johnstown became a place of much activity. The small stone church, St. John's (Church of England), had been replaced by a larger one in 1771 with a family vault under the altar for the burial of the Johnson family. Land for a cemetery had been set aside on what is now Green Street. Six small one and a half story high houses were built by Sir William near the court house. A store was next north of the court house on William Street. This was Johnstown in the last days of its founder.

Sir William Johnson died at the height of his career on July 11, 1774, at the age of 59 years. He was addressing a council of Indians in the yard of Johnson Hall during the afternoon and feeling ill was taken into the Hall where he died that evening. His son, Sir John, who had been made a baronet before his father's death, moved to Johnstown from Fort Johnson and assumed the position of his father.



Statue of Sir William Johnson, Johnstown

Johnstown Battle Field Monument, Johnstown



Grave of Sir William Johnson, Johnstown





The American Revolution began with the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775, nine months after Sir William's death. The Johnson family remained faithful to England and its influence kept the many retainers of the family and the tenantry loyal also. The revolutionary movement at last reached a point where it was impos-

sible for Sir John and his family to remain longer in the county, and in 1776 they left for Canada with a large number of their dependents, tenants, and their neighbors.

The revolution brought two raids into what is now Fulton County. In 1780, Sir John descended from Canada by way of the Sacandaga Valley with an army of 500 whites and Indians. The Mohawk Valley was ravaged from Tribes Hill to the Noses, and Johnstown invaded for the purpose of recovering papers and valuables buried at Johnson Hall when Sir John had left in 1776, also to take back more people who desired to return with him. The other raid was led by Walter Butler and Major Ross, coming up from the Mohawk Valley and resulted in the Battle of Johnstown fought for the most part across the creek north of Johnson Hall. The engagement was between Ross and Butler with 607 men, of which 477 were British and Tories and 130 Indians and Colonel Willett of the colonial forces with 500 men, of which 200 were militia. This battle, said to be the last of the American Revolution, took place October 25, 1781, six days after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, news taking that long to travel in those days.

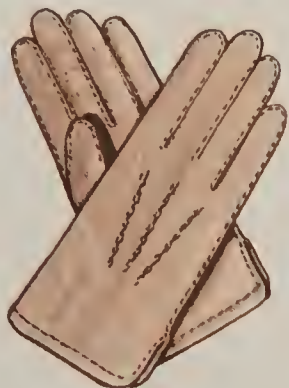
Following the Revolution, the property of the Tories, cut up into lots convenient for sale, was sold by the State of New York through Commissioners of Forfeiture appointed in 1777. New England had become overpopulated and New York was the new frontier. Men with their families were on the move to the West to take up new land and turn it into fertile farms. The Mohawk Valley was the great pathway from the East and all the little valleys branching from it north and south were little pathways. These New England people bought and settled the lands mostly in eastern and northeastern parts of the county and especially in and around what is now Gloversville. The western and southern part of the present county and in and around Johnstown had a large German element of the Palatine immigration, some of whom were original settlers or had drifted in from the Stone Arabia settlement.

The name of the large county with Johnstown as its county seat remained Tryon until April 2, 1784, when the State Legislature changed it to Montgomery in honor of General Richard Montgomery, killed in the storming of Quebec in 1776. In 1788, the state declared the old Fort Stanwix Treaty of 1768 with the Indians null and void and Montgomery County was said to be all that part of the state bounded easterly by Ulster, Albany, Washington, and Clinton Coun-

ties, southerly by the State of Pennsylvania and north and west by the north and west bounds of the state. Johnstown then became the county seat of a vast area. Ontario County, at that time a large tract of land, was cut from Montgomery in 1789 and from then on, the division of the state into counties proceeded rapidly. The last taken from Montgomery was Hamilton in 1816, and from then until 1836, Montgomery consisted of what is now that county and Fulton.

During the rapid settlement of the lands of the county following the Revolution, great progress was made in every endeavor. Johnstown was especially favored by the opening of the state road built through the village in 1806, its purpose being to open up and bring settlers to the west especially around Lake Ontario and the central part of the state. This brought a steady stream of people from the east in many conveyances through Johnstown thus stimulating business. This prosperity was not to last. The Erie Canal was opened for business in 1825 and the Utica and Schenectady Railroad in 1836, both offering a better and cheaper way of transportation than by wagon over the state road through Johnstown. The county seat was isolated from travel and could only be reached by poor roads. Fonda on the canal and railroad was more central for county business and an influential group in the southern part of the county got the county seat moved from Johnstown to Fonda in 1836. Dissatisfaction of people living in the northern part of the county was so great that the new County of Fulton was set up on April 18, 1838, and Johnstown again became a county seat, the same county buildings being restored to use again.

Fulton County has been a center for tanning and dressing leather and the manufacture of gloves and mittens for over one hundred and fifty years. It was begun by the New England settlers who had come into this county following the American Revolution. Many of these people were the makers of tinware and they continued it after they moved here. After tin utensils were made, they had to be sold and thus the peddling system began first on foot, then on horseback and finally in gayly painted wagons. Money was scarce and sometimes they bartered other merchandise. Among other articles a few deerskins were received. A man by the name of Ezekiel Case in 1803 came from Cincinnati, Ohio, with a partial knowledge of dressing deerskins adopted by the Indians and dressed a few skins and made a few pairs of mittens. In 1805, Tallmadge Edwards, a resident of Johnstown, who had gained some experience in dressing leather and manufacturing gloves in England, taught some Gloversville men the way of doing these things. For many years, gloves and mittens were made in the homes, a family affair, the men cutting out the gloves and mittens, the women sewing them, at first by hand and later by sewing machines. Then a few men and women were employed and the work was done in a few





Overlooking One of Fulton County's 44 Lakes



Fulton County, Year 'Round Vacationland

rooms added to the back of the home. Finally, factories, large and small, were built entirely apart from residences. Until very recently women continued to do their part of making gloves at home. From the start, improvements were made in dressing leather and in the manufacture of the goods until in 1821, 4,000 dozens of gloves and mittens were made in the whole county. It is from these small beginnings that the great glove industry of the community has come.

Along side of the glove industry, many other industries flourish: the making of gelatin, phonograph records, freezer cabinets, wool blankets, plastic bags, leather novelties, children's leather shoes, dies and machinery, awnings, boat tops, knit goods, plastic toys, and others too numerous to mention.

Fulton County has a population of 51,854 of whom 19,332 live in the City of Gloversville and 9,987 in the City of Johnstown. The county is less than 10 miles from the New York State Thruway.

All kinds of recreation may be enjoyed in Fulton County. There are streams for fishing, forests for hunting. The many lakes give opportunity for water sports of all kinds in winter and summer. Good elevations and ideal weather make skiing enjoyable in season. The Great Sacandaga Lake, made by damming the Sacandaga River at Conklingville, Saratoga County, is mostly in Fulton County. It was completed in 1930 and is about the size of Lake George. It has a capacity of approximately 33 billion gallons. The public is welcome to enjoy whatever such a large body of water has to offer.

For those who love history and exploring historic sites, Fulton County has a lot to offer. Johnson Hall at Johnstown, erected 1762, was the home of Sir William Johnson in his last years and here he died. A few years ago, the State of New York which owns the property, made a very complete restoration of the Hall and the stone blockhouse



Kingsborough Church, Gloversville

which stands beside it. Close by is the Johnstown Battlefield. The court house, 1772, the only one in New York State remaining from colonial days, is still in use for court. It has not undergone much change. In 1812, Aaron Burr defended a client in this ancient court house. Nearby was born Enos T. Throop, governor of New York, 1829-1833. The grave of Sir William Johnson is in the church yard of St. John's Episcopal Church. This church, built in 1836, is the third one of this denomination, the first one, 1766, was pulled down as being too small, the second, 1771, was burned in 1836. The old graveyard on Green Street contains the graves of old county notables. The old Tryon County Jail, still being used, should be seen.

A visit to Gloversville should include a view of old Kingsborough, a part of Gloversville since 1890, at which time the area was included within the city limits. Here we have the typical New England common with church, cemetery and old houses bordering it. Monuments for early Kingsborough worthies, Rev. Elisha Yale and Horace Sprague, have been erected here.

Fulton County has every convenience for tourists and it will pay anyone to visit here. It has an illustrious history and its future is assured by its location and its good citizens.

Statue of Rev. Elisha Yale and Monument of Horace Sprague, Gloversville







HISTORICAL SITES OF INTEREST

- ① Johnson Hall, 1762
Hall Ave., Johnstown
- ② Johnstown Battle Field
Johnson Ave., Johnstown
- ③ Fulton County Court House 1772
N. William St., Johnstown
- ④ Fulton County Jail 1772
116 S. Perry St., Johnstown
- ⑤ St. John's Episcopal Church 1836 and
Sir William Johnson's Grave
N. Market St., Johnstown
- ⑥ Kingsborough — Kingsborough Church,
Kingsborough Cemetery, Monuments for
Rev. Elisha Yale and Horace Sprague
Kingsboro Ave., Gloversville
- ⑦ Johnstown Historical Society
17 N. William St., Johnstown

RECREATIONAL SITES OF INTEREST

- ① Kingsboro Golf Course
Ext. Kingsboro Ave., Gloversville
- ② Pine Brook Golf Club
S. Main St., Gloversville
- ③ Royal Mountain Ski Center
Route 10, 10 Miles North of Johnstown
- ④ Sherman's Amusement Park
Caroga Lake, N. Y.
- ⑤ Pine Lake Amusement Park and Camp-
site
Pine Lake, N. Y.
- ⑥ Nick Stoner Golf Course
Caroga Lake, N. Y.
- ⑦ New York State Public Campsite
Caroga Lake, N. Y.
- ⑧ Northampton N.Y.S. Public Campsite
Route 30
- ⑨ Sacandaga Park and Community
Theatre
Route 30
- ⑩ Sacandaga Golf Course
Sacandaga Park, N. Y., Route 30



FULTON COUNTY, N. Y.

4 Seasons Vacation Wonderland

Plus

AN INDUSTRIAL PARADISE!

Fulton County is a wonderful place to visit any time of the year. It's really a four season vacationland. In addition to its historical sites it can boast of 44 lakes and hundreds of miles of mountain streams. These afford many beaches for swimming, excellent fishing, boating and all water sports — four golf courses, ski center, two amusement parks and majestic scenery surrounding the area make this the ideal environment for perfect relaxation.

Vacation in Fulton County? Yes, but it is even a better place to live and work. Industry enjoys prosperity in this county because working and living conditions are so pleasant.

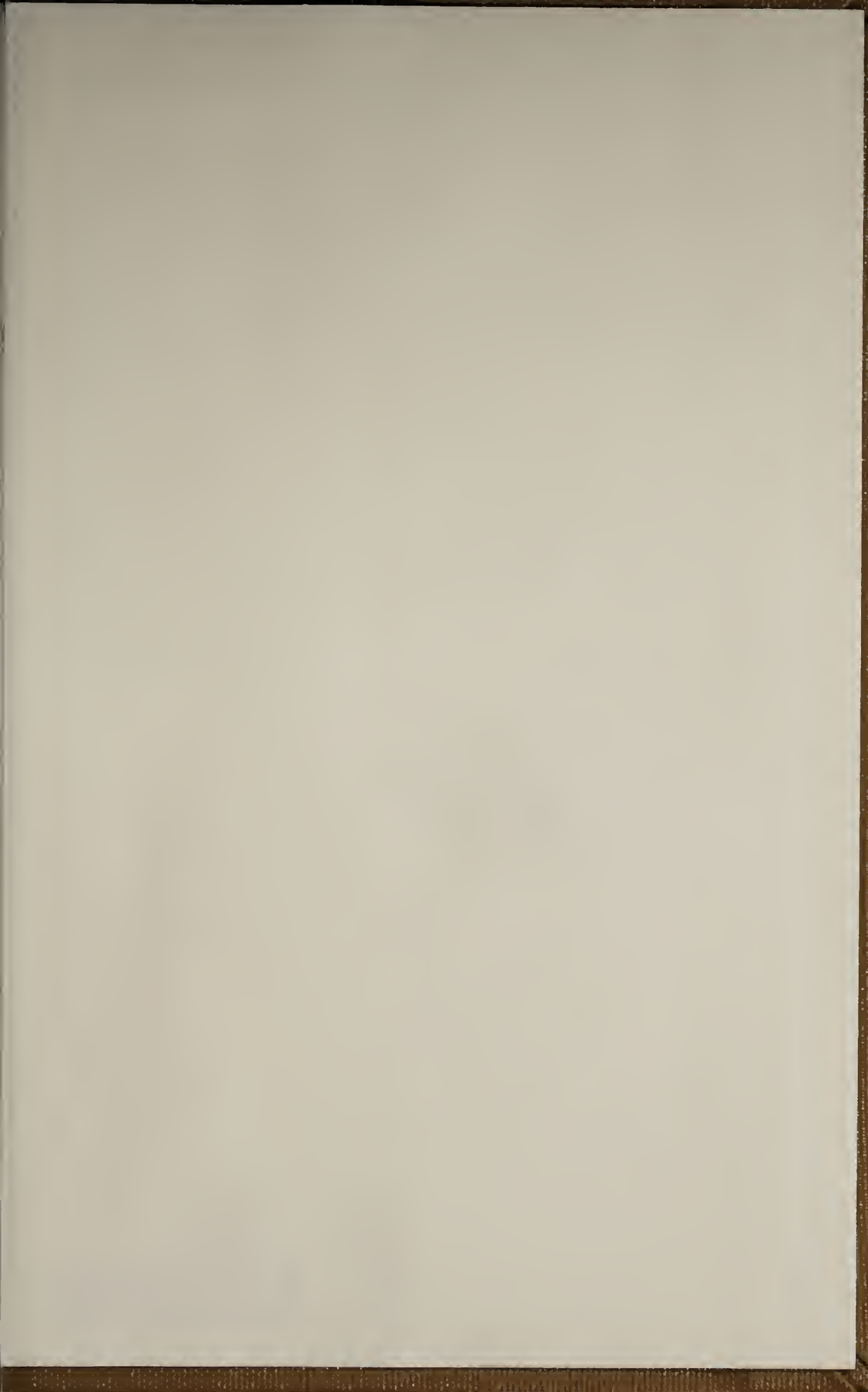
Fulton-Montgomery Community College located on Fort Johnson Road offers eight Associate Degree Programs and a sizeable number of non-credit courses designed to serve industries and communities in the area.

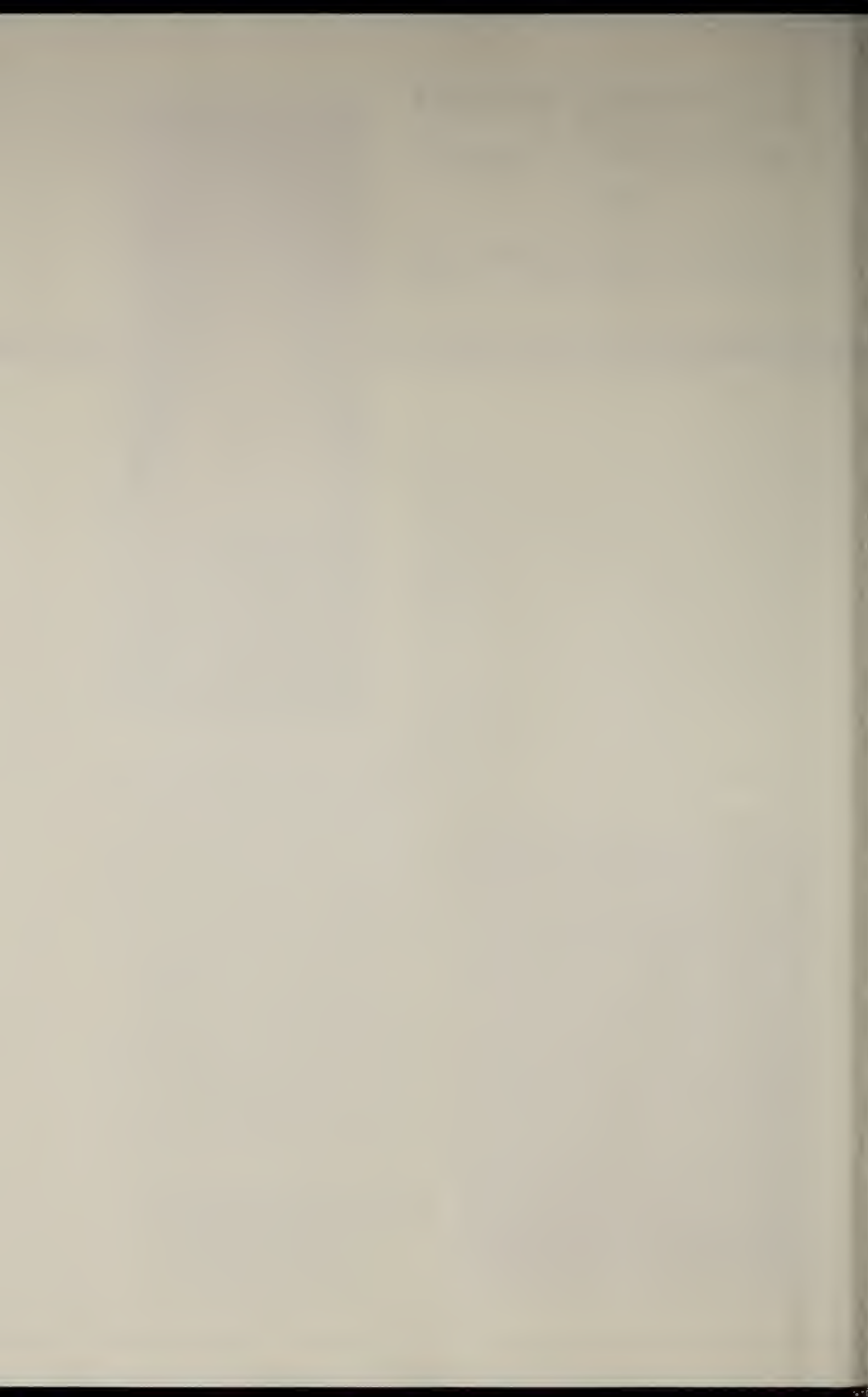
If you are a manufacturer looking for expansion or locating your plant where you and your workers will be happier than ever, we invite you to join our industrial family and we will find a suitable site for you.

For further information on vacation travel or industrial sites write, wire or call: Fulton County Publicity
County Building
Johnstown, New York

FULTON COUNTY'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES

Boat & camping trailers, chemical, communications, electrical, food products, freezers, furniture, glue, gloves, handbags, knitted fabric, leather accessories, leather cleaning & refinishing, leather finishing, leather high fashion wear, leather novelties, leather sportswear, machinery, marine equipment, ornamental iron products, paper products, phonograph records, plastic products, plastic recreational products, printing, racing sulkies, shoes & slippers, sporting goods, textile dyeing & finishing, textile shoddy, wood recreational products.





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